

CHARTER

North Slope Science Technical Advisory Panel

Official Designation: North Slope Science Technical Advisory Panel.

Scope and Objectives: The purpose of the North Slope Science Technical Advisory Panel (the Science Panel) is to advise the North Slope Science Oversight Group on issues such as identifying and prioritizing inventory, monitoring and research needs, and providing other scientific advice as requested by the Oversight Group.

Duration: The need for the Science Panel is expected to continue indefinitely. In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), the Science Panel will be rechartered every 2 years by the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary).

Agency or Official to Whom the Group Reports: The Science Panel reports to the Oversight Group through the Secretary's designee who shall serve as the Designated Federal Official of the Science Panel.

Bureau Responsible for Providing Necessary Support: Administrative support and funding for activities of the Science Panel will be provided by the Bureau of Land Management.

Estimated Annual Operating Costs: The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Science Panel's functions are estimated to be \$45,000 per year plus 0.5 man years.

Description of Duties: The duties of the Science Panel are solely advisory to the Oversight Group, which will give direction to the Science Panel regarding priorities for decisions needed for the Department of the Interior's management. Duties could include the following:

- a. Advise the Oversight Group on science planning and relevant research and monitoring projects;
- b. Advise the Oversight Group on scientific information relevant to the Oversight Group's mission;
- c. Review selected reports to advise the Oversight Group on their content and relevance;
- d. Review ongoing scientific programs of North Slope Science Initiative (NSSI) member organizations on the North Slope at the request of the member organizations to promote compatibility in methodologies and compilation of data;
- e. Advise the Oversight Group on how to ensure that scientific products generated through NSSI activities are of the highest technical quality;
- f. Periodically review the North Slope Science Plan and provide recommendations for changes to the Oversight Group;
- g. Provide recommendations for proposed NSSI funded inventory, monitoring and research activities to the Oversight Group;
- h. Provide other scientific advice as requested by the Oversight Group; and

- i. Coordinate with groups and committees appointed or requested by the Oversight Group to provide science advice, as needed.

Allowances for Science Panel Members: Members of the Science Panel will receive no compensation as members. Members shall, however, be allowed travel expenses, including per diem, when engaged in actual performance of Science Panel duties, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in Federal Government service are allowed such expenses under 5 U.S.C. 5703.

Frequency of Meetings: The Science Panel will meet two to four times annually, but in no case less than once. Additional meetings may be called as deemed necessary.

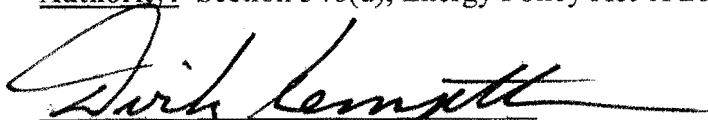
Science Panel Membership: The Science Panel shall consist of a representative group of not more than 15 scientists and technical experts from diverse professions and interests, including the oil and gas industry, subsistence users, Native Alaskan entities, conservation organizations, wildlife management organizations, and academia, as determined by the Secretary. The members will be selected from among, but not limited to the following disciplines: expertise in North Slope traditional and local knowledge, landscape ecology, petroleum engineering, civil engineering, geology, botany, hydrology, limnology, habitat biology, wildlife biology, biometrics, sociology, cultural anthropology, economics, ornithology, oceanography, fisheries biology, and climatology.

Ethics Responsibilities of Science Panel Members: All members will comply with applicable ethics rules and regulations. The Department of the Interior will provide materials to those members appointed as Special Government Employees, explaining the ethical obligations which the members should be familiar. Consistent with the ethics requirements, members will endeavor to avoid any actions that would cause the public to question the integrity of the Science Panel's operations, activities, or advice. The provisions of this paragraph do not affect any other statutory or regulatory ethical obligations to which a member may be subject.

Subgroups: The Science Panel may establish such workgroups or subgroups as it deems necessary for the purposes of compiling information or conducting research. However, such workgroups may not conduct business and must report to the full Science Panel.

Termination Date: The Science Panel is subject to the provisions of the FACA, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2, and will take no action unless the charter filing requirements of section 9 of FACA have been met. The charter is subject to biennial renewal and will terminate 2 years from the date the charter is filed, unless prior to that time, the charter is renewed in accordance with section 14 of the FACA.

Authority: Section 348(d), Energy Policy Act of 2005 (PL 109-58).


 SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

APR - 9 2008
 DATE SIGNED

MAY 20 2008
 DATE CHARTER FILED